

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

March 15, 2013

Ms. Linda M. Cohn, SWEIS Document Manager
NNSA Nevada Site Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8518

Subject: Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Nevada National Security Site and Off Site locations in Nevada (CEQ# 20130036)

Dear Ms. Cohn:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Nevada National Security Site and Off Site locations in Nevada pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA reviewed the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement and provided comments to the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration on December 1, 2011. We rated the DSWEIS as *Environmental Concerns– Insufficient Information* (EC-2), primarily due to potential direct and indirect impacts to waters of the United States and biological resources.

In response to our comment letter on the DSWEIS, the FSWEIS provides additional information satisfying most of the issues we previously raised. The EPA appreciates the NNSA's incorporation of the additional air quality mitigation measures that we recommended. Additionally, we thank the NNSA for the clarification and expanded discussion regarding further NEPA analysis.

We understand, as explained in the response to comments, that some of the projects discussed are speculative and will be subject to further NEPA and permitting processes when proposals are more developed. EPA strongly encourages the integration of NEPA compliance with the Clean Water Act Section 404 process, to streamline permitting and to align the alternatives analyses of these processes. We would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the environmental review at the individual project level. Please notify our office upon release of any future NEPA documentation and analyses for the Nevada National Security Site and off site locations in Nevada, and send a copy to our office.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the FSWEIS for the Continued Operation of the Nevada National Security Site and Off Site locations in Nevada. When the Record of Decision is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or have your staff contact Scott Sysum at (415) 972-3742 or sysum.scott@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)